

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary, or any other piece like this, days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It also shows the abuse that can take place by an unscrupulous broadcaster.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. To be sure, from this point forward I will take notice and action every time I hear the announcement that a broadcaster, or its affiliate is up for renewal.
Thank you.